

Remarks

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Welches (U.S. Patent 6,404,655).

Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is defective because Welches fails to disclose each and every feature of the claimed invention. For example, independent claim 1 recites:

“An inverter system for delivering energy from a source of direct current (dc) to an alternating current (ac) utility, comprising:

a dc/dc converter coupled to the source of dc for synthesizing a time-varying current from the dc;

an output inductor coupled to the dc/dc converter; and

an inverter coupled to the output inductor for supplying the time-varying current to the ac utility in phase with a voltage of the ac utility.”

Welches fails to disclose, among other features, a “dc/dc converter coupled to the source of dc for **synthesizing a time-varying current from the dc.**” On the contrary, as can readily ascertained from FIGS. 4 or 5 of Welches, a constant voltage is provided across the capacitors C3 and C4 at the output of Welches’ DC/DC converter 30. In the present invention, however, a **time-varying current** is created in the output inductor L4 by the time-varying output (see, e.g., FIG. 7) of the dc/dc converter 114.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable. Further, Applicants submit that independent claims 15 and 20

and their dependent claims are allowable for reasons similar to those set forth above with regard to independent claim 1.

With further regard to claims 2-11 (and similarly claims 16-19 and 21-22), Welches does not disclose a “phase-shifted input bridge” having first and second phase legs for producing a “time-varying current” at the output of the dc/dc converter, nor a controller for controlling a phase relationship between the first and second phase legs of the phase-shifted input bridge to provide the time-varying current.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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